

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Specification

Pages 1 and 2 of the specification have been amended to update the list of co-pending applications with USPTO application serial numbers.

As requested by the Examiner, the disclosure has been amended to include consistent references to the figures, when the disclosure switches from one figure to a different figure.

Abstract

As requested by the Examiner, the abstract has been amended to delete the reference to "Figure 48".

Claims

The Examiner rejected claims 1-18. By this amendment, claims 1-5 and 7-8 have been amended, and claims 6 and 10-18 have been deleted. Therefore claims 1-5 and 7-9 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 1-3, 6-12 and 14-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wolff et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,081,261) in view of Dymetman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,330,976). The rejection is respectfully traversed in light of the present amendments to the claims.

Wolff et al. incorporates "signature verification", described at col. 2, lines 57-61, in an electronic document handling and processing system by interpreting time, location and pressure parameters of a "pen-like instrument". While that is a sophisticated method of verifying a signature, it has little in common with the method of registering specific sensing devices with respective users as defined in amended claim 1 of the present application. Amended claim 1 includes the step of "*storing, in the computer system, first registration data associating an identity of the first registered user with the identity of the unregistered sensing device.*" Wolff et al. does not disclose or suggest the use of such registration data. The differences between the present claim 1 and Wolff et al. are further illustrated by the following: After a user is first registered with a sensing device according to the present claim 1, the computer system then automatically associates that particular sensing device with that particular user; because registration data associating the user and the sensing device is stored in the computer system (per the fourth step of amended claim 1). On the other hand, the system disclosed in Wolff et al. does not include such registration data. Thus a user of the Wolff et al. "pen-like instrument" would need, for example, to sign their name every time the instrument is used in order to establish a relationship between the instrument and a given user. That is because no registration data associating an identity of a user and a sensing device is disclosed or fairly suggested in Wolff et al.

Claim 1 has been amended to further clarify the above registration process by adding limitations from claim 6 concerning the "re-registering" of an already registered sensing device with a new registered user. That process is also neither disclosed nor suggested in Wolff et al.

Support for the above amendments to claim 1 is found in the specification at page 48, lines 17-23, where the sensing device of claim 1 is referred to as a netpage pen: *"In order for a user to make full use of the netpage system, he or she must be uniquely associated with at least one netpage pen or other netpage interaction device. A pen registration process is provided to register a netpage pen for use by a registered netpage user, which is carried out, for example, when the new user registration process is conducted with a pen registered to another user, or when a user wishes to register another pen for his or her own use. The pen registration user interface flow is illustrated in Figure 48 and described hereinbelow."*

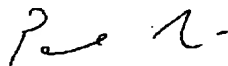
The applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's other rejections concerning Dymetman et al. and Skarbo et al. are moot in light of the above arguments. Neither Dymetman et al. nor Skarbo et al. disclose or fairly suggest associating an identity of a user with the identity of a sensing device.

Conclusion

The applicant has corrected deficiencies pointed out by the Examiner concerning the specification and the abstract. The claims have also been amended to further clarify the distinctions between the present invention and the cited prior art. Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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